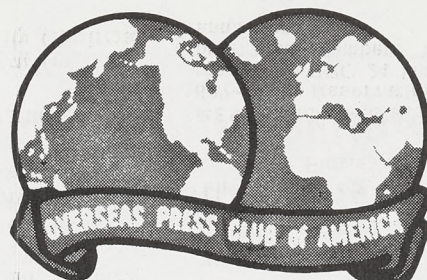


OPC BULLETIN



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Talking Shop Roundup



CLAY FELKER — Jan. 11
Photo: Ronda Kass



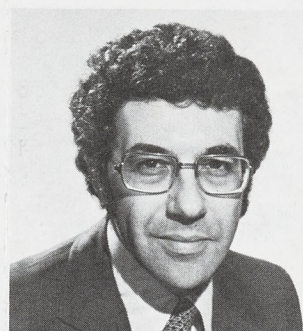
RUPERT MURDOCH — Jan. 24



DICK CAVETT — Feb. 9
Photo: Susanne F. Stevens



JANE PAULEY — Feb. 23



LESTER M. CRYSTAL — Mar. 8



JACK ANDERSON — Mar. 15

Remember gossip column items about “don’t invite so-and-so to the same party?”

Larry Stessin doesn’t.

As co-chair of the OPC “Shop Talk” committee with Gloria Zukerman, the undaunted Stessin has invited a fascinating and “in-this-corner” group of journalistic superstars. Be thankful that they are scheduled at least two weeks apart.

Heading the card on Wednesday, January 11, is Clay Felker. As the new publisher of *Esquire Magazine*, the original *Playboy*, Felker has innovative plans for making the venerable magazine more competitive. Rumor has it that he is taking dead aim at making it

competitive with *New York*, the old candy store that he founded while at the late *Herald Tribune*. He lost *New York* to Australian publishing czar Rupert Murdoch after a bitter stock-tender blitzkrieg.

And guess who follows Felker.

Rupert Murdoch will be our luncheon guest on Tuesday, January 24. Media midas Murdoch is expected to limit his comments to the policies with which he range rides over his American publishing properties. We also expect him to comment on the “battle of the by-lines.” His *New York Post* lost Jack Anderson and Silvia Porter to the *New York News* while he lured *New York Times* drama critic Clive Barnes to the

Post. Although not necessarily related, it is interesting to note that the “Shop Talk” heads have lured Jack Anderson as a repeat guest for luncheon on Wednesday, March 15.

February is TV month. Public broadcasting Service’s Dick Cavett heads the cast on the evening of Thursday, February 9. Taping schedule permitting, Cavett will talk about the difference in public and commercial television and how it has affected his interviewing techniques.

Speaking for commercial television will be NBC “Today” hostess Jane Pauley. On Tuesday, February 23, Ms. Pauley is expected to tell members and guests about her New York experiences

and what it has been like filling Barbara Walters’ high heel sneakers. And on Wednesday, March 8, Pauley’s new boss, NBC News President Lester M. Crystal, will visit and bring us up to date on what he and NBC are doing in the ratings race.

Yes, reservations are strongly recommended for all luncheon “Shop Talks” — all recent events have been sell-outs. Call Mary Novick (687-2430). Members are charged \$7.50; guests are \$8.50. All gatherings take place at OPC Headquarters, 19th floor (north elevators), Hotel Biltmore, New York City.

Mr. Stessin, about your New Year’s Eve Party, did you invite ...

—Chas. Schreiber

Farewell Nevis!



Catalina Nevis, the greatly appreciated OPC bartender, in a rare quiet moment during his last night behind the OPC bar, Friday, December 2. Nevis was reassigned by the Biltmore despite a heavily signed petition of protest from OPCers.

Photo by: Jerry Bissell

Awards deadline set—Entries due by Feb. 1

Deadline for entries in the 1977 Overseas Press Club Awards will be Feb. 1, 1978, Robert E. Sheridan, Awards Chairman, announced.

The presentations will take place at the Biltmore Hotel on Monday, April 17, 1978. The awards have been made since 1942.

This year certain awards have been named for present and former members of the OPC. In addition to the previous “Robert Capa Gold Medal for best photographic reporting or interpretation from abroad requiring exceptional courage and enterprise,” the awards now include:

The Hal Boyle Award for the best daily newspaper or wire service reporting from abroad.

The Bob Considine Award for the daily newspaper or wire service interpretation of foreign affairs.

The Ben Grauer Award for the best radio spot news from abroad.

The Lowell Thomas Award for the best radio interpretation of foreign news.

The Edward R. Murrow Award for the best tv interpretation or documentary on foreign affairs.

The Cornelius Ryan Award for the best book on foreign affairs.

Entry forms have been distributed. Additional forms and information are available from the Overseas Press Club, Biltmore Hotel, 55 East 43rd Street, New York, N.Y. 10017.

From the Clubs

DUBAI — Some local interests are getting into the news business in the United Arab Emirates to satisfy the thirst for more news created by \$8 billion yearly in oil income waiting to be spent. The recently-established Emirates News Agency (WAM), modeled on the Middle East News Agency (MENA), is providing coordinated coverage of the seven sheikhdoms for local newspapers, radio and television. There are now two daily local bulletins. Rashid al Mazroui, head of the UAE Press Service, which runs one of the dailies in Abu Dhabi, plans to put out an economic newsletter in the near future, staffed by seasoned English-language reporters from Karachi, Bombay and Dacca. International interest is expanding too. *Wall Street Journal*’s Ray Vicker recently performed in a meet-the-press type show over Abu Dhabi television. Joe Fitchett (*Washington Post* and *Christian Science Monitor* stringer) was recently in town to honcho a special supplement for the *International Herald Tribune* written by Kathleen Bishtawi, star stringer for the *Financial Times*. Bishtawi will do supplements on the other Gulf countries before heading back to Beirut. *Business International*, which held a three-day roundtable in Abu Dhabi, Dubai and Sharjah during the first week of November, will publish a monogram on the Emirates early next year. Tim Edgar of the *Gulf Mirror* (Bahrain) is holding down the only permanent office here. The gold trade here in “pirate’s cove” has sagged since the Indian government cracked down on receivers. The “dhows” hove-to along the creek are now laden with industrial-age booty for the other Gulf countries.

—Michael B. Sullivan

**SIGN
UP A
NEW MEMBER**

Marlene Walt provides a lyrical music night

Marlene Walt, a young soprano with a pleasing voice, made her debut recital at the Overseas Press Club Nov. 21 in an attractive program of songs and arias.

Although Miss Walt’s voice is not large in size, her innate musicality and excellent technical schooling enabled her to bring a high degree of interpretative insight to the numbers on her program. These included a wide and challenging variety — songs in Italian by Monteverdi and Alessandro Scarlatti; “Porgi Amor” from Mozart’s *Marriage of Figaro*; a German group by Brahms and Mahler; French songs by Faure and Poulenc; and American songs by Aaron Copland and Sam Morgenstern, the latter of whom was in the audience.

Pianist William Wingfield provided his own lyricism as accompanist, and Music Committee Chairman Jack Frummer presided.

—Herbert Kupferberg

Wrap a Grab Bag gift for Dec. 20 party

Christmas Hanukkah 1977 at the Club is a departure. You remember the Grab Bag of your youth — or Lucky Dip, as *Fred Brewster*, Hospitality Committee-man, terms it. That’s the ticket this year.

On Tuesday 20 December from 5:30 — 7:00, it will be holiday nostalgia time. OPC members and their guests are asked to arrive with gift-wrapped, message-inscribed packages. (\$5 maximum cost for gifts; gift-wrappings available at the Club for Desperate Types.)

During the course of the evening — the course of song and wassail — each celebrant will pluck a gift from the grab bag — and share it and the message inscribed upon it with fellow celebrants — or not, as he sees fit.

You have the word. Arrive Tuesday 20 December with gift, inscribed with message for its unknown recipient. Leave the rest to your friends at the OPC.

—Ruth Biemiller
Hospitality Chairman

NEW MEMBERS

Active Resident
Muriel Hornstein
Patrick Doyle
James D. Reed
Active Non-Resident
John J. O’Connor
Associate Resident
Allan B. Ecker
Patricia Lewis
Patricia A. Tunison

Merry Christmas!
Happy Hanukkah!
Happy New Year!

CALENDAR

Tuesday, Dec. 20, 5:30-7:00 — Annual Holiday Open House. Each member and guest should bring a grab bag present, suitably wrapped and inscribed.

Monday, Dec. 26. The Club will be closed.

Monday, Jan. 2. The club will be closed.

Wednesday, Jan. 11, 12 noon, cocktails; 12:30, luncheon — Talking Shop Luncheon with Clay Felker, president & editor, *Esquire Magazine*. \$7.50, members; \$8.50, guests.

Tuesday, Jan. 24, 12 noon, cocktails; 12:30, luncheon — Talking Shop Luncheon with Rupert Murdoch, publisher, *New York Post*. \$7.50, members; \$8.50, guests.

Wednesday, Feb. 1, 8:00 p.m. — Music Night. Details to follow.

Thursday, Feb. 9 — Talking Shop With ... Dick Cavett. Details in this issue.

Thursday, Feb. 23 — Talking Shop With ... Jane Pauley. Details in this issue.

RESERVATIONS: Please call Mary Novick, 687-2430. Reservation cancellations must reach the OPC 24 hours before the event, otherwise members will be charged the announced fee.

Kustbandet brings a jazz era back to life; W.C. Handy Fund honors Jazz Chair Dobie



Wilma Dobie, OPC Jazz Chairman, accepts an award to the Club from the W.C. Handy Memorial Scholarship Fund.

Photo by: Jerry Bissell

Nov. 22, 1977, New York, N.Y. "Kustbandet," Swedish jazz makers appearing at the Overseas Press Club in their New York City debut, blew up a cyclone of sounds for regulars and a packed house of guests, proving anew that fact can be stranger than fiction and more fun, too!

Wilma Dobie's Jazz Committee corralled the 12-man group for the special show prior to their commercial opening in the Big Apple at Storyville on 57th Street a few hours later.

OPCers quaff sherry at tasteful fiesta

The sherries flowed copiously and the guitars filled the night with music at the recent OPC International Committee's Spanish Fiesta event at the Casa Espana in the East Murrayhill section of Manhattan.

The yellow, rambling structure, built in 1976 to welcome the King of Spain and known as "the corner of Spain" in New York, was the setting for a tasting of Spanish sherries of all complexions and flavors.

While OPCers and members of the Casa imbibed the dry Finos, medium Amontillados, sweet Olorosos and rich Creams and Tapas, the Consul General of Spain in New York, Rafael de la Casares, welcomed the attending press. Bob Misch gave a knowledgeable run-down on the Spanish Sherry Vendimia, and John Davis Lodge reminisced about Embassy life in Spain where he was U.S. Ambassador for a number of years. Philippe Gonzales of Gonzales & Byas spoke knowingly about sherry wines.

The tasteful evening was arranged by Sylvia Schur, chairperson of the Club's International Events Committee.

A visitor to OPC walking in cold would have thought the era of the big bands had never ended; nay, the era of the early jazz bands, themselves, had returned. Kustbandet's specialty is playing early jazz, note for note, just as it was written or recorded by Duke Ellington, Fletcher Henderson, Louis Armstrong, Cab Calloway, Coone Saunders, etc.

The muted horns, plucked banjo and facile bass tuba, even a high-pitched tenor, should only be heard on early gramophone records. Not true! Here it was, live, performed for lovers of traditional jazz; pieces like "MISTY MORNING BLUES," "SOME DAYS," "SWEETHEART," "CORRINE CORINA," "WASHBOARD WIGGLES" and "BLACK AND TAN FANTASY" along with a score of other oldies.

In their twenties or early thirties, the group includes a teacher and a medical student as well as others who carry their love of American jazz far beyond private rooms and home towns in Sweden. Known throughout Europe, they have painstakingly studied jazz greats, copying orchestrations and instrumental parts in detail.

Lest you think the results are drab, they have made the imitations sound like their own, including passages that were undoubtedly improvisations at the original recording sessions. When the audiences' stomping and rhythm clapping feeds back, the group really takes off. The feeling and power is there.

Winning applause, too, were jazz celebrities in the audience, Sam Wooding who took the first American jazz orchestra to Europe in the early twenties (one of his sidemen was Sidney Bechet); Peter "Snake Hips" Dean who responded by singing several scat songs including "Why Don't You Do Me Like You Used To Do" ... and Dolly Dawn who belted out "I Can't Give You Anything But Love, Baby."

The second half of the show was broadcast by Station WNYC. Walter Bishop, pianist-composer from the W.C. Handy Memorial Scholarship Fund, presented an award to Wilma Dobie for her continuing efforts on behalf of all jazz lovers.

Gene Sachs, who used to be music editor of Billboard, summed it up for everyone when he stated "that OPC had added another flag to its outstanding collection ... The OPC has played host to the English Jazz Society, the Joan Of Arc French Jazz Group, Swiss, Polish and now the best Swedish group." 'T'was a great night for jazz aficionados!

—Dick Milbauer

Obituary

Margaret Forster O'Connell, chief copy editor of *The New York Times Book Review*, died of cancer on November 6 at Freeport, the Bahamas. She was 42 years old.

O'Connell was a concerned member of the Club. She served as secretary to a committee she revived — a committee planning publication of a wacky book intended to garner funds for the Club's coffers — a committee consisting of herself, Will Yolen, Robin Moore and Ruth Biemiller.

Her book, entitled *The Magic Cauldron*, dealt with witchcraft — and good and evil — through the ages. It was published in 1976.

O'Connell was born in Wilmington, Delaware, graduated from Penn State University, and received a graduate degree from New York University. After stints with Random House and Thomas Y. Crowell, book publishers, she joined *The New York Times Book Review* in 1963 as assistant children's book editor. In 1974, she was promoted to copy chief.

Her colleagues at *The Times* placed a notice on the obit page of the paper whose sentiments are shared by her Overseas Press Club friends. The notice follows, in parts:

"The ... staff deeply mourns the untimely death of its associate ... Margaret F. O'Connell, gifted and dedicated editor and literary journalist, highly regarded by her colleagues and cherished by many friends."

—Ruth Biemiller

WHO, WHAT, WHERE

By GRACE NAISMITH

NEW LOOK: Jim Hanchett of *The News* has moved up to the assistant picture editor slot. He takes Bob Wahls' place as Wahls succeeds Howie Knapp, who, after 40 years "of outstanding service," says editor Michael O'Neill, "has not been able to lick the allergy that has kept him out of action for so long."

NEW ASSIGNMENT: Hester Hensell is in San Diego for several months on a special assignment, the nature of which she does not say, but she is enjoying the San Diego Press Club. Jack Raymond was seen on the scene there recently, at a PRSA conference.

Bill Dunne returned; and he can prove it!



OPCer Bill Dunn recently returned to Leyte, the Philippines, to join in ceremonies dedicating a group of statues in honor of General Douglas MacArthur's celebrated return to the islands during World War II. Among the grouping of seven men wading ashore, whom would he see but himself, immortalized in bronze? "Fortunately, I have a good heart," Dunne reports, "or the shock might have been the end of me."

The full grouping of seven life-size bronze figures depicts: then-President Sergio Osmena of the Philippines; General George Kenney, Commander Far East Air Force; General MacArthur; General Carlos P. Romulo, now Philippine Minister of Foreign Affairs; Dunn; General Richard K. Sutherland, MacArthur's Chief of Staff; and Sergeant Francis Saveron, the General's orderly.

"Don't ask me why I'm not wearing headgear of any kind," says Dunn. "I don't know, to tell the truth. I have always hated having anything on my head and nobody told me I had to on this trip so I didn't. The object under my arm is a Hermes Baby typewriter, one of four I went through during that war."

Not shown in the photo reproduced here are Osmena, Kenney and Romulo. Dunn also recalls that it was not raining when the group waded ashore and the original photo was taken, although rain is quite evident in the photo of the statues. "It did pour, however, before we got back to the ship," he remembers.

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PUBLISHING: James R. Whelan, vice president and editorial director of Panax Corporation, East Lansing, Mich., has the cover story on the November issue of *Signature Magazine*. It chronicles a safari into Venezuela's Amazon territory jungle. Jim's had two cover stories in *Signature* this year ... Curtis Bill Pepper's new novel, *Marco*, has been published by Rawson Associates with Atheneum distribution. It is a Book of the Month Club alternate. Pepper will be in New York for about six months. Address: 340 East 67th Street. He will be "commuting" to his home at intervals — Torre Olivola, Torre Gentile di Todi (PG), Italy. He had a cover story in the *New York Times Magazine* in November, entitled *Kidnapped*. Coming up is another novel. He quotes Stanley Swinton of AP, who, he says, always knew Pepper was a born novelist since he couldn't write a news story in 150 words (referring to the days when Pepper was with UPI and Stan was AP chief in Rome) ... Simon and Schuster has brought out a Pocketbook paperback of *Arnold C. Brackman's The Search for the Gold of Tutankhamen*. ... Walter Henry Nelson of Prittie and Nelson is back in London recuperating after a 10-city tour in the U.S. promoting his book, *The Economic War Against the Jews*, a Random House book co-authored with the British journalist Terence Prittie.

SEEN ON THE SCENE: Bob Reay, Australian Vice-Consul and member of the National Press Club of Canberra and Roberto Ordonez, journalist with the Evening Post of Manila. They enjoyed Willie Dobie's jazz night at the OPC.

TRAVELING: Angier Biddle Duke, chairman of the subcommittee on Panama for the National Committee on American Foreign Policy has returned from Panama after three days of talks with Panamanian and U.S. authorities on the Canal Treaties ... Karl Detzer is coming to town next month. He is expecting a great grandchild any minute.

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